

Dear Members of the House Health Care Committee,

My name is Haley Herrington, and I am currently enrolled in South University's Anesthesiologist Assistant Program. I am writing to you today to show my support for expanding CAA practice to Oregon.

Growing up, I always knew I wanted to work in healthcare and explored many different areas of medicine. With my passion for healthcare in mind, I started my undergraduate studies at Mercer University, declaring a Biology major with minors in Chemistry and Psychology and taking courses on the pre-medical track. I researched and shadowing many different career fields, including pharmacy, medical school, physical therapy, and optometry programs. The day I shadowed an Anesthesiologist Assistant, however, I knew that becoming an anesthetist was exactly what I wanted to do. I loved how CAAs and CRNAs have the opportunity to be the reassuring voice for a patient during the stressful perioperative time. Three weeks after graduating Magna Cum Laude from Mercer University, I began my masters in anesthesia science at South University.

This 28 month program is rigorous and very demanding, but I am loving learning how to become the best anesthetist I can be. By the completion of my studies at South University, I will have completed over 600 hours of classroom instruction, and 2600 hours of clinical anesthesia education. I eagerly await September of 2017 when I will become a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant. CAAs and CRNAs work along side each other as members of the Anesthesia Care Team, the only model of care that ensures supervision from licensed anesthesiologists.

Myself and countless other AA students are passionate about their work in anesthesia and would love to see their newly found profession spread to all 50 states. Oregon is truly a beautiful state, and I would love to have the possibility to work in Oregon once I graduate. Please consider expanding CAA practice into Oregon. There are countless CAAs who relish the opportunity to serve patients in Oregon!

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Haley Herrington, SAA  
South University Class of 2017